

Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 55 Number 2 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> February 2007

February General Meeting

The Beltsville Garden's Club February General meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville.

Our speaker for this month is long-time BGC member Robert Howell; his topic will be **"THE JOYS OF CULTIVATING MUMS IN YOUR YARD"**. Bob has been a member of BGC since 1972 and is a past President of the club. He was employed at USDA from 1967-1993 and investigated plant stress problems, air pollution, drought and plant pathogens. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland Agronomy Department. His love of chrysanthemums dates back to 1968 when he joined the Potomac Chrysanthemum Society. He has been growing and exhibiting mums since 1980. In addition, he is a Master Judge and travels throughout the US to judge national and local chrysanthemum shows. Each year he grows between 500 to 700 mums for show purposes. Dr. Howell will be bringing order forms for anyone interested in ordering Chrysanthemums for fall 2007.

Please join us to hear this informative speaker. Remember to bring plants for the door prize table. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Admission is free and the public is welcomed. Bring a friend with you and introduce them to the club!

Spring Plant Sale Dates Set

Geoff White, our Plant Sale Chair, has set the dates for our two spring plant sales. They will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 and Saturday, May 12, 2007. Both sales will be held in the parking lot of High Point High School on Powder Mill Road. The sales run from 8:00-noon each day. Let your friends and neighbors know so that they can mark their calendars. Club members who wish to be vendors should contact Geoff.

BGC Website

Have you had a chance to check out the BGC Website? Our new webmaster, Doug Bolt, has updated the website and made sure that all the information that is on there is current. You can look for past editions of the newsletter, check for meeting topics, find the names of club officers, print out a renewal form for your dues, and look at photos of past garden club events and trips. Check out the website. If you have any suggestions for the website or if you have photos from club events that you would like to post on the website, please contact Doug.

Roadside Pick Up

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 31, 2007. This will be our spring roadside pick up date. We'll meet at the McDonald's on Powder Mill Road at 9:00 and then clean up our stretch of Powder Mill Road between McDonald's and the high school. Questions? Contact Geoff White.

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2007

The Beltsville Garden Club is a not-for-profit organization designed to promote gardening interests of its members, increase their knowledge of horticulture, add to their enjoyment of gardening, and to encourage ornamental planting by individuals, community and business groups.

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Submissions to the newsletter are due by the second Wednesday of the month and should be submitted to the editor at 12217 Castle Pines Drive, Beltsville, MD 20705 or by e-mail.

Greenhouse News

By Bill Koppes

On the weekend of Feb 10, 11 we did three plant sales at the U. of Maryland Catholic Student Center. We captured the attention of parishioners as they exited the Saturday 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM and 7 PM services with a display of houseplants. This netted just under \$400. We thank the chaplain, Fr. Bill Byrne for his encouragement of parishioners to support the sales on behalf of the children at Duckworth. At this time of year we have to focus on the spring sales so this plant sale is important to our operations, as the houseplants surrender bench space to their more rugged outdoor cousins.

We say farewell this month to Lorene Chang. She is moving to California. Lorene donated many hours to the greenhouse operations. She introduced many new varieties to our inventory of plants and established perennial beds in the courtyard garden. As these mature we will be able to sell divisions of these plants. Thank you, Lorene. We wish you the best of gardening experiences in your new home state.

RENEWALS

This is your last chance to renew your BGC dues before you will be cancelled from the membership rolls at the end of February. Send your \$7 dues to the club or re-join at the meeting so that you can continue with us!

HOSPITALITY

Thanks to the following members who volunteered to provide refreshments for our January meeting: Geoff White, Nancy Nickell, Louise DeJames, Bill Koppes, Charlotte Schomburg, Mike Bordelon, Emily Bair, Bob Trumbule and Helmut Jaenhigan

Joan Simons and Anna Ubeda, Hospitality co-chairs, want to remind the February hospitality volunteers of the refreshments that they signed up to bring. Sweets: Ron & Nita Nabors, Matthew and Susan Burge, Eleanor Butler, Anne Hoffman, Mary Margaret Freeburne, and Elaine Jones; Non-Sweets: Judy Shanefelter and Marcy Marinelli; Drinks: Alan Ballard; Centerpiece: Doug Bolt. Questions?? Contact Joan or Anna (numbers in column to the left). Thanks everyone!

Spring Garden Trip

This spring the Beltsville Garden Club will travel to Maryland's Eastern Shore to visit Adkins Arboretum. The trip is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2007 from 9:15 am until 5:00 pm. The cost for the trip is \$30 and includes bus transportation and admission to the Arboretum and tour.

Upon arrival we will enjoy a guided tour of the Arboretum which features native plants and spring ephemerals, spring wildflowers and the vibrant colors and diverse textures of the native gardens. The walk will last 60-90 minutes and covers 1-2 miles across wide and easily accessible dirt and gravel trails. Adkins focuses on plants native to the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain. After our tour of the Arboretum we will picnic at nearby Tuckahoe State Park which also has nature trails. Bring your own bag lunch. Finally, after lunch we will have the opportunity to shop at nearby Harrington's Nursery which features shrubs, perennials and annuals.

We will meet at 9:15 am at the Calverton Shopping Center parking lot, 11701 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville, and travel by air-conditioned bus to the arboretum. We will return around 5:00 pm. Space is limited to the first 47 people. You must be a member of BGC in order to go on the trip. Please complete the reservation form below and mail it with your check, payable to BGC, for \$30 per person to Sandy Lange.

Plant Tips & Tidbits

By Sandy Lange

By trimming the stem end and refreshing the water every two days, a cut amaryllis flower will last up to two weeks—about 4 days longer than keeping it attached to the bulb.

Pour about a one half cup of brewed coffee once a month into the soil of the Norfolk pine; this will prevent or lessen yellowing of its lower leaves.

Behnke Nurseries is once again accepting plastic pots and flats for recycling. Behnke's is sponsoring free seminars on week-ends, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., throughout February and March. Check their website at www.Behnkes.com for details. Also, Garden Gate magazine reports that the Horticultural Research Institute and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service are working to develop biodegradable nursery pots. Research is focusing on developing a compound made from feathers, a waste product from the poultry industry. Pots have to be strong enough for the plants to grow in them until they are sold, then decompose in the landfill or compost pile.

All parts of the daphne, foxglove and lily-of-the-valley are very poisonous. Even the water in the lily-of-the-valley plant is poisonous. Leaves and nectar from the flowers of the Pieris shrub and the pods, seeds and bark of wisteria are also poisonous.

Reservation for BGC Trip to Adkins Arboretum

(Please detach and mail form and your check to Sandra Lange, 12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Checks should be made payable to Beltsville Garden Club.)

Name(s): _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

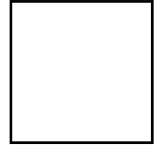
E-Mail Address: _____

Cost: \$30 per person

\$ 7 BGC membership dues for non-members Total Remittance: _____

Reservations must be received by May 8, 2007

Beltsville Garden Club
P. O. Box 1953
Beltsville, MD 20704-1953



Spring Plant Sale Dates Set

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, April 21, 2007

Saturday, May 12, 2007

8:00-noon

Parking Lot of High Point

High School

***It's time to renew
your BGC Dues! This will be
your last newsletter unless your
2007 dues are paid up.***

***Don't miss out on the latest in-
formation on upcoming
club events!!***

BGC Calendar of Events

- Wed. 2/28/07 February General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Duckworth School, Bob Howell, Chrysanthemums
- Wed. 3/7/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm Home of Bill & Sue Koppes
- Wed. 3/28/07 March General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Duckworth School, Carol Hammerlink, Gesneriads
- Sat. 3/31/07 Roadside Pick Up, 9:00 am Meet at McDonald's on Powder Mill Rd.
- Wed. 4/4/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm Home of Bob & Helen Pechacek
- Sat. 4/21/07 First Spring Plant Sale, 8:00-noon Parking Lot of High Point HS
- Wed. 4/26/07 April General Meeting, 7:30 pm Duckworth school, Carol Bordelon, Hydrangeas
- Wed. 5/2/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Home of Louise DeJames
- Sat. 5/12/07 Second Spring Plant Sale, 8:00-noon Parking Lot of High Point HS
- Wed. 5/23/07 May General Meeting, 7:30 pm Duckworth School, RoseAnn Davis, Strawberry Pot Herb Gardens